



Scripps Hospital East County

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David Werdegarr, MD, MPH
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Health Policy and Planning Division
1600 9th Street, Room 350
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 370697 Scripps Hospital-East County

Dear Dr. Werdegarr:

This letter is in response to the most recent OSHPD outcomes study for Acute Myocardial Infarction Mortality. The data in the report summarizes 1991 through 1993 data, which is attributed to Scripps Hospital East County. There are additional facts that need to be considered in the analysis of this data.

- In 1991 and 1992, EPIC Healthcare Group owned the hospital and it was known as Valley Medical Center.
- On March 17, 1993, the hospital was purchased by ScrippsHealth, and became licensed as Scripps Hospital East County.
- 27 out of 36 months included in the study occurred when the hospital was owned by EPIC Healthcare Group and therefore should not be published under Scripps Hospital East County.
- During the nine months of 1993 when ScrippsHealth took over ownership of the hospital they immediately implemented policy and procedures changes and began to develop a new administrative team and culture. The entire medical staff was required to reapply for privileges and underwent the credentialing process.
- Data from this study for 1993 showed a statewide death rate of 14.0 which falls within the risk adjusted death rate range of 11.6 to 25.9 calculated for this hospital. This data would thus be summarized as not significantly different than expected.

In conclusion, data from the years 1994 through 1996, after ScrippsHealth purchased the hospital shows an observed death rate for patients admitted with a diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction of 17.3% (not risk adjusted). This rate is considerably lower than the observed death rate of 21.0% for the years 1991 through 1993 in the OSHPD report.

Thank you for your consideration of these facts and your amendment of the published report to reflect this information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dunne
Administrator